

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF CHILEAN AMBASSADOR

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REUTER ACCOUNT (FROM WASHINGTON POST) OF AMBASSADOR HEITMANN'S REMARKS AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, JANUARY 14.

2. QUOTE:LEFT WING SNIPERS PREVENTED CHILEAN PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE FROM SURRENDERING TO AN ARMY COUP LAST SEPTEMBER - AND ALLENDE THEN KILLED HIMSELF, CHILE AMBASSADOR WALTER HEITMANN SAID YESTERDAY.

3. QUOTE: HEITMANN TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE SNIPERS, MOSTLY "FOREIGNERS", HAD SET THEMSELVES UP IN BUILDINGS OPPOSITE THE MONEDA PALACE AFTER THE COUP BEGAN SEPT. 11.

4. QUOTE: THEIR GUNFIRE PREVENTED ALLENDE FROM LEAVING THE BUILDING TO TAKE A CAR - PROVIDED BY THE MILITARY - THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM TO THE AIRPORT AND EXILE.

5. QUOTE: ALLENDE THEN WENT BACK TO HIS OFFICES AND SHOT HIMSELF WITH A MACHINE GUN, REPORTEDLY ONE GIVEN HIM BY CUBA PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO.

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6. QUOTE: AT ONE POINT DURING HIS NEWS CONFERENCE,

HEITMANN SAID THERE WAS A DISCUSSION OF WHETHER ALLENDE
HAD SHOT HIMSELF OR HAD BEEN SHOT BY THE MILITARY.

7. QUOTE: "SOME SAY HE WAS SHOT BY THE MILITARY, SOME
SAY HE COMMITTED SUICIDE. IT REALLY MAKES NO BIG DIFFER-
ENCE. I DON'T SEE WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS," HEITMANN SAID.

8. QUOTE: BUT HEITMANN LATER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE
MILITARY GOVERNMENT HE REPRESENTS IS CONVINCED THAT
ALLENDE KILLED HIMSELF, CITING A DEATH CERTIFICATE AND THE
TESTIMONY OF ALLENDE'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN.

9. QUOTE: THE NEWS CONFERENCE WAS CALLED APPARENTLY
BECAUSE THE CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA IS STILL WRESTLING WITH
THE GHOST OF ALLENDE.

10. QUOTE: "HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPEECHMAKERS I HAVE
EVER MET," HEITMANN SAID. "MANY PEOPLE ARE STILL CON-
VINCED THAT WHAT ALLENDE WANTED WAS TO ORGANIZE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALISM, WITH FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF ELEC-
TIONS.

11. QUOTE: "BUT THAT IS WHAT WE DID NOT HAVE. IT
WAS TOTALITARIAN MARXISM," HE ADDED.

12. QUOTE: HEITMANN INDICATED THAT THE MILITARY WOULD
RETAIN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AT LEAST UNTIL THE END
OF THE YEAR WHEN A NEW CONSTITUTION IS DRAFTED.

13. QUOTE: THE MILITARY WOULD THEN RETURN TO ITS TRADI-
TIONAL, NONPOLITICAL ROLE. SOME CHANGES WITHIN THE
CURRENT RULING JUNTA, HEADED BY GEN. AUGUSTO PINOCHET,
WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE BEFORE THEN, HE SAID. UNQUOTE.
RUSH

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